Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents

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Week Ending Friday, August 17, 2007

The President's Radio Address

August 11, 2007

Good morning. In America, August is considered a slow news month. But in the war on terror, America and our allies remain on the offense against our enemies. And this month, we've had some encouraging news from both Afghanistan and Iraq.

Earlier this week, I had a good meeting with President Karzai of Afghanistan at Camp David. He updated me on the work his Government is doing to help build a more hopeful future for the Afghan people. He told me that senior officials and tribal leaders from Afghanistan and Pakistan are meeting to discuss how to deal with the extremists who are targeting both their countries. And he explained why he's confident that his Government will prevail against the Taliban remnants who continue to launch attacks throughout his country.

Here's how President Karzai put it: "The Taliban do pose dangers to our innocent people. [But] they are not posing any threat to the Government of Afghanistan; they are not posing any threat to the institutions of Afghanistan or to the buildup of institutions of Afghanistan." He continued: The Taliban "is a force that's defeated," and it is "acting in cowardice by killing children going to school." In other words, the Taliban fighters can still launch attacks on the innocent, but they cannot stop the march of democracy in Afghanistan.

In Iraq, we're working to help put the Iraqi Government on the same path. The surge that General Petraeus and our troops are carrying out is designed to help provide security for the Iraqi people, especially in Baghdad, and aid the rise of an Iraqi Government that can protect its people, deliver basic services for all its citizens, and serve as an ally in the war on terror. Our new strategy is delivering good results, and our commanders recently reported more good news.

One encouraging development was a coalition airstrike that killed a terrorist named al-Badri earlier this month. Al-Badri was the mastermind of the bombing of the Golden Mosque in Samarra, one of Shi'a Islam's holiest shrines. That bombing sparked the escalation in sectarian violence we saw in 2006. Al-Badri was the most notorious Al Qaida commander in Samarra. He sheltered foreign terrorists, and he was responsible for attacks that claimed many innocent lives. His death is a victory for a free Iraq and a sign that America and the Iraqi Government will not surrender the future of Iraq to coldblooded killers.

Al-Badri is just one of the many Al Qaida leaders and other extremists who are coming under a withering assault across Iraq. Only a year ago, Al Qaida ruled places like Ramadi, terrorizing the local population and intimidating local authorities. Today, Al Qaida has largely been driven out of these cities, markets and schools are reopening, and normal life is returning. And since January, each month we have killed or captured an average of more than 1,500 Al Qaida terrorists and other enemies of Iraq's elected Government.

Our surge is seizing the initiative from the enemy and handing it to the Iraqi people, and Iraqis are responding. Local residents are coming forward with tips that are helping U.S. and Iraqi forces rout out terrorists hiding among the population. While political progress has been slower than we had hoped, the Iraqi Parliament passed more than 50 pieces of legislation in its most recent session. They approved a $41 billion budget, created an electoral commission and military courts, and laid the groundwork for private sector investment in production of gasoline and diesel fuel. At the same time, Iraqi forces have taken responsibility for security in a number of areas. They are taking losses at a much higher rate than we are. And they're making these sacrifices willingly, because they are

determined to see their children live in freedom.

The enemy in Iraq is still dangerous, and the surge is still in its early stages. Changing conditions on the ground is difficult work, but our troops are proving that it can be done. They are carrying out their mission with skill and honor. They are accomplishing great things for the future of our Nation and for the future of a free Iraq.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 8 a.m. on August 10 in Kennebunkport, ME, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on August 11. In his address, he referred to Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 10 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks During a Visit With President Nicolas Sarkozy of France and an Exchange With Reporters in Kennebunkport, Maine

August 11, 2007

President Bush. Everybody having a good time here?

Q. Thank you. It's great.

President George H.W. Bush. It's a good day. You're back.

President Bush. Particularly thinking about you, Mark [Mark Knoller, CBS Radio].

Q. Yes, sir.

President Bush. Mark, let me ask you, you looking forward to going down to Crawford?

Q. You bet; can't wait.

President Bush. Good. Well, that will be Monday.

Visit of President Sarkozy

Q. Mr. President, what do you expect about France——

President Bush. I expect to be with a friend. I'm looking forward to having him with my family. The best way we can do things—the best way we can send a good signal to President Sarkozy is to invite him here at the family house. I've got a lot of my brothers around, my sister, my daughters. He's going to figure out what——

President George H.W. Bush. Youngest grandchild made these signs.

The First Lady. Did you see the signs the grandchildren made?

President George H.W. Bush. *Le signe.*

President Bush. What language are you speaking? [*Laughter*]

President George H.W. Bush. Is that "sign"—*signe*?

Q. *Signe.*

The First Lady. See. He remembered his French.

Q. Mr. President, aren't you disappointed that Mr.——

President Bush. Never disappointed, always upbeat. Feeling good; feeling optimistic about life. Thank you. Thank you. Disappointed about what?

First Lady Cecilia Sarkozy

Q. ——about Mrs. Sarkozy not coming?

President Bush. Of course we are. She's a very dynamic woman. She is—we were looking forward to seeing her as well as the children. And so we're disappointed she's sick, but we understand. That happens sometimes in life.

President George H.W. Bush. Very nice of him to come, having been back to France yesterday.

President Bush. Yes.

President George H.W. Bush. It's amazing.

Visit of President Sarkozy/President's Vacation

Q. Are you surprised the President of France vacations in America?

President Bush. We're pleased he's here. Of course he makes the choice he makes. If people were asking me where I think they ought to vacation, it would be right here in America—where I'll be vacationing, as you know, Monday, starting in Crawford.

President's Vacation

Q. Could you imagine you, or you, sir, as President, vacationing in a foreign country?

President Bush. Of course I could.

Q. Really?

President Bush. Yes, there's some spectacular spots around the world that would be——

President George H.W. Bush. We've done it.

President Bush. ——great places to relax. But as you know, Mark, I'm a fellow—I'm a Texan; I like my place down there. I like to go down there as much as I can. It's where I can relax. It's also—the job follows you wherever you go; you're always President. And so here we are at my mother and dad's house, enjoying a beautiful Maine day, fixing to sit down with the President of an ally. We're going to have a heart-to-heart talk. We'll be talking about a lot of key issues.

The good thing about President Sarkozy is, you know where he stands; he'll tell you exactly what he thinks. And I hope he'd say the same thing about me.

Q. If he invites you to go to France for a vacation——

President Bush. Of course I would go.

Q. ——would you go?

President Bush. Absolutely. Absolutely. Particularly if he could find a place for me to ride my mountain bike. [*Laughter*]

Q. There are plenty.

President George H.W. Bush. There are plenty of mountains over there.

Q. Yes.

The French Language

Q. Mr. President, could you say something in French?

President Bush. No, I can't. [*Laughter*] I can barely speak English. [*Laughter*]

Lunch Menu

Q. Mr. President, what kind of lunch are you going to have?

President Bush. We're going to give him a hamburger or a hot dog, his choice. [*Laughter*]

The First Lady. We're going to have a traditional family lunch.

Q. Mustard or catsup?

President Bush. It's up to him. We got it all laid out in there. He's got some baked beans. If he'd like some baked beans, we've got that as well.

The First Lady. Native Maine corn too, which is really delicious this time of year.

President Bush. Corn on the cob, real fresh this time of year.

The First Lady. Potato salad——

First Lady Barbara Bush. Coleslaw.

The First Lady. ——fresh tomatoes.

President Bush. If he feels like it, he can have him a piece of blueberry pie—fresh blueberries up here in Maine.

Visit of President Sarkozy

Q. Do you think he's bringing cheese here?

The First Lady. We hope so.

President Bush. I think he's bringing good will. He's bringing a good brain, good vision, and good will. I'm looking forward to seeing him.

Visit to Kennebunkport, Maine

Q. Are you going to go fishing?

President Bush. I don't know if we will or not. We've got a——

President George H.W. Bush. We went this morning to check; there's no fish——

President Bush. We may go boating. That's the difference between fishing. I need to spend a little time with him alone. We'll figure out the schedule here in a minute. I've got a—we've probably got 45 minutes of private time that we've got to sit down and talk about some of the key issues of the world. This is a complicated world with a lot of opportunities to bring peace. And no question, when America and France work together, we can get a lot of important things done.

Visit of President Sarkozy

Q. What's the main issue you want to address with him?

President Bush. There's a lot of issues, a lot of issues. It's a complicated world.

Q. Iran?

President Bush. One thing—sure. Absolutely we'll talk about Iran. But, yes, I had a very good visit with the President in Germany, and I was very impressed—impressed with his vision, impressed with his leadership skills. Appreciated very much the involvement of the French Government in helping get the nurses out of Libya. And I think we can work well together. And that's going to be good for the people of France and the people of the United States, and it's going to be good to help in the spread of peace.

France-U.S. Relations

Q. Do you see it as a time to start new relations with France, Mr. President?

President Bush. We've had good relations with France. Obviously there's been disagreements, but just because you have disagreements on particular issues doesn't mean you have—not going to have good relations. I respect the French a lot and——

Q. ——new Government give a new leeway to——

President Bush. Thank you, sir. Thank you. I respect the French people; I respect the history of France. We have had disagreements—on Iraq, in particular—but I've never allowed disagreements to not find other ways to work together. The previous administration and my administration worked very closely on Lebanon, and I'm looking forward to building on the progress—here comes the President.

Thank you for the press conference. Chalk it up as a guy who's trying to reach out and be friendly to the fourth estate—that would be the press.

[*At this point, President Sarkozy arrived.*]

Q. Mr. Sarkozy——

President Bush. Do you want to say a few comments? They just asked me about your wife, and I said how disappointed we were, but we fully understand.

Do you want to ask him a couple of questions? He's never shy around the press.

Visit of President Sarkozy

Q. Mr. Sarkozy, what's the message you bring to the American President and to the Americans?

President Sarkozy. I came to visit the United States on holiday, on vacation, like 900,000 French do every year. It's a great country. I'm very happy to be here. The United States is a close friend of France, and I'm very glad to be able to meet with the President of the United States here today.

France-U.S. Relations

Q. A new page in the history between the two countries?

President Sarkozy. I just finished reading a biography of Lafayette, and I wanted to tell President Bush about that. The U.S. and France have been allies and friends for 250 years. At the birth of the United States, France chose the side of the U.S.—there were 4 million Americans at that time, and France was the friend of the Americans. Afterwards, when we the French were involved in the war, the West were on our side. And on the east coast, we see a lot of cemeteries with small white crosses—on the French coast—and those are young Americans who came to die for us. And that is a lot more important than Mr. Sarkozy or Mr. Bush because after Mr. Bush, after Mr. Sarkozy, we'll continue to be friends of the Americans.

The U.S. is a large, big democracy. It's a country of freedom, and it's a country that we've always admired because it's the country that brought a constitution and freedom to the world. And France is friends with democracies, not with dictatorships.

Do we agree on everything? No, because maybe even within a family there are disagreements, but we are still a family. And we may be friends and not agree on everything, but we are friends nevertheless. That's the truth.

President Bush. Beautiful. Thank you. We've got to go eat a hamburger. We've got to go eat a hamburger.

President Sarkozy. Cecilia called Mrs. Bush this morning——

The First Lady. Yes, we talked this morning.

President Sarkozy. ——I went back to France, yes, for the Cardinal's funeral. I know that—therefore, I know very well that the distance between the U.S. and France is relatively small. [*Laughter*] And as I came back, I realized that my wife and two of my children have a sore throat. And George will say that I brought them—[*laughter*].

President Bush. Thank you all. Thank you.

President Sarkozy. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:47 a.m. at Walker's Point. President Sarkozy referred to Jean-Marie Cardinal Lustiger, former Archbishop of Paris, who died on August 5. President Sarkozy and a reporter spoke in French, and their remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks Following a Visit to the Washington DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center

August 13, 2007

Thanks for coming. It's an honor for me to be here with Senator Bob Dole and Secretary Donna Shalala, Secretary Jim Nicholson and Deputy Secretary Gordon England. I appreciate the opportunity to come to a building full of compassion, a place of expertise, where people are dedicating their time and efforts to help those on active duty and those who have served before.

Any time there is any doubt in anybody's mind that our veterans are not getting excellent care, then we in Government have a duty to deal with those doubts. I have asked Secretary Gates and Secretary Nicholson to review their respective Departments and the interface of their Departments—the Defense Department and the Veterans Department—to make sure that any doubt as to whether or not a veteran or one on active duty gets the best care is—does so.

I also asked Senator Dole and Secretary Shalala to lead a nonpartisan, independent Commission to identify areas where we can do better and, more importantly, come up with solutions as to how to deal with those problems. The Commissioners conducted a very serious and lengthy review of our military and veterans health care systems, and they submitted recommendations to me at the end of July. After Senator Dole and Secretary Shalala briefed me on their recommendations, I then directed Secretaries Gates and Nicholson to study and, more importantly, implement the recommendations, so we can ensure our severely wounded servicemembers and their families that they will receive the best possible care.

We've got great health care for our wounded. We just want to make sure that the system is seamless and that the families are treated with the utmost of care during these difficult moments. Secretaries Gates and Nicholson and their Departments are working hard to make sure their Agencies talk to each other and collaborate. Equally importantly, they're looking at the recommendations that the Dole-Shalala Commission put forward, and they're implementing them. In other words, the Commission did really good work. The Commission's recommendations are solid, and therefore, to the extent that we can move without congressional law, we will do so. And not only will we do so; we will keep the commissioners abreast of the progress we are making.

Secondly, we want to work with Congress. When they come back in September, we want to work with Congress to pass that which is necessary to make sure that the Dole-Shalala Commission's recommendations are fully implemented. In other words, there are some aspects of the Commission recommendations that require congressional approval. We believe it's important for Congress to listen to the Commission. We believe the recommendations make a lot of sense, and we would ask for the Congress to pass those recommendations as quickly as possible, so I can sign them into law.

There's an amazing—there's a lot of amazing things taking place here in this facility. For example, we saw information technology, health care records that are being passed seamlessly from the Department of Defense to the VA to make sure that the care providers here have got up-to-date access for each patient. We saw volunteers helping the wounded learn to regain balance and confidence through kayaking programs. I saw physical therapists—I heard physical therapists talk about their patients with the kind of care and compassion that obviously requires a big heart and strong commitment.

The commitment of this Government is this: Anybody who is sent into harm's way deserves the best possible care. We're dedicated to this goal. If we find problems, we'll solve the problems. For those who are providing the care, we thank you. For the soldiers who are receiving the care, we owe you the best. And for the families who stand by them, we thank you for your patience.

God bless our troops. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:07 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to former Senator Bob Dole and former Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna E. Shalala, Cochairs, President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors; and Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates.

Remarks on the Resignation of Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Adviser Karl Rove

August 13, 2007

Karl Rove is moving on down the road. I've been talking to Karl for a while about his desire to spend more time with Darby and Andrew. This is a family that has made enormous sacrifices, not only for our beloved State of Texas but for a country we both love.

Now, we've been friends for a long time, and we're still going to be friends. I would call Karl Rove a dear friend. We've known each other as youngsters interested in serving our State. We worked together so we could be in a position to serve this country. And so I thank my friend. I'll be on the road behind you here in a little bit. I thank Darby and I thank Karl for making a tremendous sacrifice, and I wish you all the very best.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:31 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Karl Rove's wife, Darby Rove, and son, Andrew Rove. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Deputy Chief of Staff Rove.

Statement on the Death of Mervyn E. Griffin, Jr.

August 13, 2007

For over half a century, Merv Griffin entertained America. He was a man of innovation and energy who greeted challenges with laughter and determination. By following his passions and trusting his instincts, Merv became one of our Nation's best-known and most respected entertainers. He introduced Americans to a generation of talent on his talk show, created two of the most successful game shows in history, and led a thriving hospitality business. Merv was also a generous leader who gave back to his community, donating millions of dollars to provide abused children with safe haven and brighter futures.

Laura and I are saddened by his death. His family is in our thoughts and prayers.

Executive Order 13442—Amending the Order of Succession in the Department of Homeland Security

August 13, 2007

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345, *et seq.*, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Section 88 of Executive Order 13286 of February 28, 2003 ("Amendment of Executive Orders, and Other Actions, in Connection With the Transfer of Certain Functions to the Secretary of Homeland Security"), is amended by striking the text of such section in its entirety and inserting the following in lieu thereof:

"Sec. 88. Order of Succession.

Subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, the officers named in subsection (a) of this section, in the order listed, shall act as, and perform the functions and duties of the office of, the Secretary of Homeland Security (Secretary), if they are eligible to act as Secretary under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.* (Vacancies Act), during any period in which the Secretary has died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary.

"(a) Order of Succession.

(i) Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security;

(ii) Under Secretary for National Protection and Programs;

(iii) Under Secretary for Management;

(iv) Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Policy);

(v) Under Secretary for Science and Technology;

(vi) General Counsel;

(vii) Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration);

(viii) Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

(ix) Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection;

(x) Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement);

(xi) Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services;
(xii) Chief Financial Officer;
(xiii) Regional Administrator, Region V, Federal Emergency Management Agency;
(xiv) Regional Administrator, Region VI, Federal Emergency Management Agency;
(xv) Regional Administrator, Region VII, Federal Emergency Management Agency;
(xvi) Regional Administrator, Region IX, Federal Emergency Management Agency; and
(xvii) Regional Administrator, Region I, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"(b) Exceptions.
(i) No individual who is serving in an office listed in subsection (a) in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Secretary pursuant to this section.
(ii) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Vacancies Act, to depart from this order in designating an acting Secretary."

Sec. 2. Executive Order 13362 of November 29, 2004 ("Designation of Additional Officers for the Department of Homeland Security Order of Succession"), is hereby revoked.

George W. Bush

The White House,
August 13, 2007.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:52 a.m., August 14, 2007]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on August 15.

Notice—Continuation of Emergency Regarding Export Control Regulations

August 15, 2007

On August 17, 2001, consistent with the authority provided to me under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*), I issued Executive Order 13222. In that order, I declared a national emergency with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States in light of the expiration of the Export Administration Act of 1979, as amended (50 U.S.C. App. 2401 *et seq.*). Because the Export Administration Act has not been renewed by the Congress, the national emergency declared on August 17, 2001, must continue in effect beyond August 17, 2007. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13222.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
August 15, 2007.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:01 a.m., August 15, 2007]

NOTE: This notice was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 16, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on August 16.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Continuation of the National Emergency Regarding Export Control Regulations

August 15, 2007

Dear Madam Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency caused by the lapse of the Export

Administration Act of 1979, as amended, is to continue in effect for 1 year beyond August 17, 2007.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 16.

Statement on Representative Deborah D. Pryce's Decision Not To Seek Reelection

August 16, 2007

Throughout her congressional career, Deborah Pryce has championed issues that matter to the families of central Ohio. Her commitment to reducing taxes, strengthening our national defense, and reforming our health care system has helped improve the lives of her constituents and made America a more hopeful nation. She has also earned national recognition as a persuasive advocate on behalf of women and children. Based on her strong legislative record and consensus-building skills, Deb's colleagues selected her to lead the House Republican Conference—the highest leadership post ever held by a Republican woman. She will be missed when she departs the Congress.

I look forward to continuing to work with her throughout the remainder of her service. Laura and I appreciate Deb's friendship and wish her and her family all the best.

Executive Order 13443—Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation

August 16, 2007

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Purpose.* The purpose of this order is to direct Federal agencies that have programs and activities that have a measurable effect on public land management, outdoor recreation, and wildlife management, including the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture, to facilitate the expansion and enhancement of hunting opportunities and the management of game species and their habitat.

Sec. 2. *Federal Activities.* Federal agencies shall, consistent with agency missions:

(a) Evaluate the effect of agency actions on trends in hunting participation and, where appropriate to address declining trends, implement actions that expand and enhance hunting opportunities for the public;

(b) Consider the economic and recreational values of hunting in agency actions, as appropriate;

(c) Manage wildlife and wildlife habitats on public lands in a manner that expands and enhances hunting opportunities, including through the use of hunting in wildlife management planning;

(d) Work collaboratively with State governments to manage and conserve game species and their habitats in a manner that respects private property rights and State management authority over wildlife resources;

(e) Establish short and long term goals, in cooperation with State and tribal governments, and consistent with agency missions, to foster healthy and productive populations of game species and appropriate opportunities for the public to hunt those species;

(f) Ensure that agency plans and actions consider programs and recommendations of comprehensive planning efforts such as State Wildlife Action Plans, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, and other range-wide management plans for big game and upland game birds;

(g) Seek the advice of State and tribal fish and wildlife agencies, and, as appropriate, consult with the Sporting Conservation Council and other organizations, with respect to the foregoing Federal activities.

Sec. 3. *North American Wildlife Policy Conference.* The Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality (Chairman) shall, in coordination with the appropriate Federal agencies and in consultation with the Sporting Conservation Council and in cooperation with State and tribal fish and wildlife agencies and the public, convene not later than

1 year after the date of this order, and periodically thereafter at such times as the Chairman deems appropriate, a White House Conference on North American Wildlife Policy (Conference) to facilitate the exchange of information and advice relating to the means for achieving the goals of this order.

Sec. 4. *Recreational Hunting and Wildlife Resource Conservation Plan.* The Chairman shall prepare, consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations, in coordination with the appropriate Federal agencies and in consultation with the Sporting Conservation Council, and in cooperation with State and tribal fish and wildlife agencies, not later than 1 year following the conclusion of the Conference, a comprehensive Recreational Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Plan that incorporates existing and ongoing activities and sets forth a 10-year agenda for fulfilling the actions identified in section 2 of this order.

Sec. 5. *Judicial Review.* This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right, benefit, trust responsibility, or privilege, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
August 16, 2007.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:46 a.m., August 17, 2007]

NOTE: This Executive order released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 17, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on August 20.

Statement on Representative J. Dennis Hastert's Decision Not To Seek Reelection

August 17, 2007

It has been a great pleasure forging a close friendship and working relationship with Denny Hastert. He is a good and decent man, and he was a strong and effective Speaker. After teaching government and history at Yorkville High School in Illinois, Denny began making history serving in the Illinois House of Representatives and the United States House of Representatives. During his two decades in Congress, Denny rose through the ranks as a hard-working Member whom colleagues on both sides came to admire, trust, and respect and became the longest serving Republican Speaker in history. Drawing on lessons he learned as a coach, he successfully guided Members of Congress to work together to enact legislation that has improved the lives of Americans. He led Congress to reduce taxes, improve education, strengthen Medicare, bolster our national defense, and support our troops. Our Nation is stronger because of his service.

I am indebted to Denny for his candid advice and strong support, and I look forward to working with him throughout the remainder of the 110th Congress. As my good friend prepares to move on to the next phase of his life, he has my gratitude for his distinguished service. Laura and I wish Denny, Jean, and their entire family all the best.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

August 11

In the morning, at the Bush family home in Kennebunkport, ME, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted a social lunch for President Nicolas Sarkozy of France.

August 12

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

August 13

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

August 14

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had separate telephone conversations with President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan, President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan, and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India.

The President announced his intention to appoint Anthony K. Dungy as a member of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation.

The President announced his intention to appoint Anthony Carroll Wisniewski as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation.

August 15

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The President announced that he has named Jess Sharp as Deputy Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy.

The President announced that he has named John D. Adams as Associate Counsel to the President.

The President announced that he has named Todd F. Braunstein as Special Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy.

The President announced that he has named Terry A. Wolff as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Iraq and Afghanistan Policy Implementation.

The President announced that he has named Mary Burce Warlick as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Russia of the National Security Council.

August 16

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then had a briefing on the August 15 earthquake in Peru.

The President announced his intention to nominate Dan W. Mozena to be Ambassador to Angola.

The President announced his intention to nominate Louis J. Nigro, Jr., to be Ambassador to Chad.

The President announced his intention to nominate Paul E. Simons to be Ambassador to Chile.

August 17

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a briefing on the situation at the Crandall Canyon Mine in Utah.

In the afternoon, at the Broken Spoke Ranch, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a Republican National Committee reception.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released August 13

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Dana Perino

Transcript of a roundtable interview of Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Adviser to the President Karl Rove

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2863, H.R. 2952, H.R. 3006, S. 375, S. 975, and S. 1716

Released August 14

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Dana Perino

Released August 15

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Dana Perino

Released August 16

Transcript of a press gaggle by National Security Council Press Secretary Gordon Johndroe

Released August 17

Transcript of a press gaggle by National Security Council Press Secretary Gordon Johndroe

Acts Approved by the President

Approved August 13

H.R. 2863 / Public Law 110–75
To authorize the Coquille Indian Tribe of the State of Oregon to convey land and interests in land owned by the Tribe

H.R. 2952 / Public Law 110–76
To authorize the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe of Indians of the State of Michigan to convey land and interests in lands owned by the Tribe

H.R. 3006 / Public Law 110–77
To improve the use of a grant of a parcel of land to the State of Idaho for use as an agricultural college, and for other purposes

S. 375 / Public Law 110–78
To waive application of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to a specific parcel of real property transferred by the United States to 2 Indian tribes in the State of Oregon, and for other purposes

S. 975 / Public Law 110–79
Granting the consent and approval of the Congress to an interstate forest fire protection compact

S. 1716 / Public Law 110–80
To amend the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007, to strike a requirement relating to forage producers